

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An infrared (IR) receiving device comprising IR detector elements (3) for receiving IR signals from a communication zone (5), as well as a processing circuit for deriving electric signals corresponding to the IR signals received, wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in at least one matrix-type arrangement (2) which corresponds to a matrix-type segmentation of the communication zone (5), and the processing circuit comprises a maximum detector circuit (9) connected to the IR detector elements (3), which maximum detector circuit (9) selects one respective maximum output signal from among the output signals of the IR detector elements (3) for deriving the electric signal, wherein a threshold-value-forming unit (11) is connected to the IR detector elements (3) whose output is connected to the input (22) of a comparator (12) at whose other input (21) the respective maximum IR detector element output signal is applied, and ~~in that~~ wherein

each IR detector element (3.i) for selecting the maximum output signal has at least one consecutive diode (14.ia, 14.ib), the diodes being interconnected by their sides facing away from the IR detector elements (3.I).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein at least two matrix-type IR detector element arrangements (2a, 2b) are provided, the positions of the IR detector elements (3) being offset relative to each other from array to array.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in a chessboard-type arrangement, with their active detector surfaces being substantially consecutively arranged, without gaps.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein a common imaging lens (4) is arranged in front of the or each IR detector element arrangement (2).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the diodes, or the diodes (14.ia) of another group, respectively, are connected to the threshold-value-forming unit (11).

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the threshold-value-forming unit (11) has a voltage divider (18, 19) from which the threshold voltage is supplied to the one input (22) of the comparator (12).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the diodes (14.ia, 14.ib) are interconnected in groups.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A receiving device according to claim 1, wherein the diodes (14.ia, 14.ib) are

interconnected by their cathodes.

Claim 11 (New): An infrared (IR) receiving device comprising IR detector elements (3) for receiving IR signals from a communication zone (5), as well as a processing circuit for deriving electric signals corresponding to the IR signals received, wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in at least one matrix-type arrangement (2) which corresponds to a matrix-type segmentation of the communication zone (5), and the processing circuit comprises a maximum detector circuit (9) connected to the IR detector elements (3), which maximum detector circuit (9) selects one respective maximum output signal from among the output signals of the IR detector elements (3) for deriving the electric signal, wherein a threshold-value-forming unit (11) is connected to the IR detector elements (3) whose output is connected to the input (22) of a comparator (12) at whose other input (21) the respective maximum IR detector element output signal is applied, wherein each IR detector element (3.i) for selecting the maximum output signal has at least one consecutive diode (14.ia, 14.ib), the diodes being interconnected by their sides facing away from the IR detector elements (3.I),

and wherein the diodes, or the diodes (14.ib) of one group, respectively, are connected to a common resistor (20) from which the respective maximum IR detector element output signal can be taken and supplied to the other input (21) of the comparator (12).

Claim 12 (New): An infrared (IR) receiving device comprising IR detector elements (3) for receiving IR signals from a communication zone (5), as well as a processing circuit for deriving electric signals corresponding to the IR signals received, wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in at least one matrix-type arrangement (2) which corresponds to a matrix-type segmentation of the communication zone (5), and the processing circuit comprises a maximum detector circuit (9) connected to the IR detector elements (3), which maximum detector circuit (9) selects one respective maximum output signal from among the output signals of the IR detector elements (3) for deriving the electric signal, wherein a threshold-value-forming unit (11) is connected to the IR detector elements (3) whose output is connected to the input (22) of a comparator (12) at

whose other input (21) the respective maximum IR detector element output signal is applied, wherein each IR detector element (3.i) for selecting the maximum output signal has at least one consecutive diode (14.ia, 14.ib), the diodes being interconnected by their sides facing away from the IR detector elements (3.I), and wherein the threshold-value-forming unit (11) is formed by an RC unit (16).